



# THE OGDEN Reporter

Our Town, Make it Yours!

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## High School Rodeo

"My horses are like my best friends."  
-Paige Stewart



June is one of Paige Stewart's five horses. She also has three goats on her farm south of Ogden.

## Not your typical school sport

by KATHY PIERCE  
REPORTER STAFF WRITER

Now Paige Stewart can claim she does a school sport, albeit not in the traditional sense. Her gymnasium is a horse arena. Like many high school sports, she commits at least 2 1/2 hours a day after school honing her skills. Her workouts involve lugging feed from the barn, heaving saddles onto horses and repetitive mounting and dismounting. And as with other sports Stewart admits to her share of bumps and bruises. Thankfully, up to this point she has escaped any serious injuries. Her game days are Saturdays and Sundays and the season stretches to include 10 weekends a year.

This is Stewart's first year participating in Iowa High School Rodeo. Stewart, a sophomore at Ogden High School, has been involved in horse shows since the age of eight.

"I went to a lot of smaller shows that were low key, and just for fun," says Stewart who traveled weekends throughout the spring, summer and fall months.

"Back then I just wanted to do the Pleasure Class where you are judged on walk, trot and lope around the outside of the arena. I would do barrel and pole events just for fun."

"High school rodeo was Paige's goal," said her step mom Jess Haht who introduced her to horses and helps with the shows. But she set bench marks of what she wanted to achieve before she could start.

Stewart's determination is paying off. She currently is in the top 10 (of 40 riders) in the breakaway class and 12th in goat tying.

"She should be proud," said Haht. "This will give her momentum going into spring," when Stewart hopes to add to her point total. Riders earn points by placing in the top 10 of the rodeo event. Goat-tying, break away roping and barrel racing are her primary events.

Stewart knew the high school level was going to be much tougher,



Bottle feeding her practice calf, Paige Stewart learned in her first year, requires getting up way too early. Next time, she says, she'll wait until it is weaned. Above, Stewart on her horse "Q" in a breakaway contest at Fort Madison.

competing against youth from all over the state.

At the season's end she will have competed in 20 high school rodeos, two per weekend. Traveling time can be up to four hours with events stretching from Larchwood in the far northwest corner of the state to Fort Madison in the opposite direction.

Not only will she have the opportunity to compete for a state championship, but the top four in each event are invited to Nationals held in Wyoming. Most think of rodeo as a Western U.S. event but 41 of the 50 states offer high school rodeo. Riders from four provinces in Canada as well as the country of Australia will be represented in Wyoming.

Stewart's circle of friends has grown exponentially since she joined high school rodeo. Stewart,

the only OHS student active in the sport, says now she has friends to talk with about it.

"They are a very supportive group," Stewart says of her new-found friends. "I have friends from all over Iowa who say, 'oh, no, I won't get to see you until spring.' Good thing there is social media so we can stay in touch."

She is just about finished for the season and will start up again in April, going through June. Gone away from home over the weekends, Stewart and the other rodeo riders miss out on several high school events. For this reason Iowa High School Rodeo puts on their own "Cowboy Prom."

As a high school sanctioned event, high school rodeo participants must adhere to the same guidelines as other athletes. In order to compete they must maintain passing grades.

Stewart of course takes pride in doing well, but there is much more at stake. Rodeo riders can even earn scholarships. Stewart has been impressed with the rodeo team at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge so that school is currently at the top of her list. If she should choose to stay closer to home after her first two years, Iowa State she says has a small rodeo club.

But for right now, this teenager, hardly has time to think about that.

Outside of class Stewart spends nearly 30 hours a week with her five horses and three goats. Her upcoming summer will be consumed with more youth rodeos.

"If there is not snow on the ground, it is rare when she is not competing," says her step-mom.



Paige Stewart wrestles with a young goat during a goat tying competition at Larchwood, Iowa. -Rodeo photos provided

## Beggar's Night is Fri., Oct. 31

Beggar's Night in Ogden will be Friday, Oct. 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### Trunk or Treat

Once again children are invited to trick or treat on main street as well as in the neighborhoods. Trunk or Treat will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Trick or treaters are instructed to follow in one direction as they go from trunk to trunk.

Adults are encouraged to put on a costume, decorate a trunk, pickup box, or even the back of a van and have fun with all the little goblins.

You are asked to back straight up (perpendicular) with your trunk open to the sidewalk.

For more information, contact Georga Lingren at 275-2743 (evenings).

### Beggar's Night in Pilot Mound

Pilot Mound will be having Beggar's Night Friday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Fundraiser for Susan Casey

Area churches are sponsoring a "Fuel Card Fundraiser" for Ogden teacher, Susan Casey, as she receives dialysis three times a week.

The fundraiser "Power Up for Susan" will run Nov. 1-10. Purchased fuel cards can be dropped off at each of the three school offices or Swanson Drug.

Casey began dialysis Jan. 20, 2011 after learning her kidneys were functioning at about 3%. She undergoes treatment in Ames every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

She is in her 17th year with the Ogden School District and continues to work while undergoing treatment.

"I am one of the younger patients at my dialysis center and one of very few who is working while on dialysis," says Casey, as ESRD (End State Renal Disease) requires lots of time and diligence to stay healthy."

Casey is in her 17th year with the Ogden School District having worked in all three buildings. She currently works at the high school in the library and with at-risk youth. She also serves as the Junior class sponsor (prom), Assistant Drama Director and CMS Club (all indoor concessions.)

Moving to Ogden in 1996, she lives with her husband John.

## Kindergarten registration begins

Howe Elementary is collecting names of students eligible to enter Kindergarten in Ogden for the 2015-2016 school year. The registration will take place at Howe during the month of October and during conferences on Tuesday, Oct. 28 and Thursday, Oct. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. each day. Students who are eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2015 are those who have turned five on or before September 15, 2015.

Parents will be asked for their child's name, birth date, address, phone number and preschool attendance. This information will be helpful to the school for future planning, to notify parents of upcoming parent meetings, kindergarten visitation, and any other information that parents will need to know in regard to kindergarten for next fall. To register please call the Howe School office at 275-2795.

Parents who have already notified the school about their kindergarten child need not register again.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Ogden Community School District will be holding parent-teacher conferences Tuesday, Oct. 28 and Thursday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. Please go to <http://www.ptcscheduling.com/app/login.asp?HID=9877664> to schedule your conferences.



## 50-year celebration of Community United Methodist Church

Community United Methodist Church would like to invite you to a celebration at their church. Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014 CUMC will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the current church building and also the consecration of their recent building project, including the addition of The Courtyard. The schedule is as follows:

- 10 a.m.: Worship service/consecration (featuring past members who have entered into the pastoral

profession).

- 11:45 a.m.: Lunch with a free will offering.

- 1:30 p.m.: Afternoon anniversary party

All are invited to attend any or all parts of the celebration. If you plan to attend the meal, an RSVP would be greatly appreciated. Do so by calling or emailing Janice Anderson at 515-275-2650, jag1053@netins.net or the church office at 515-275-4015 or cumc@netins.net.

## Enrollment numbers up at Ogden Schools

Ogden Supt. Brad Jermeland reports that this school year the district has experienced a slight increase in its certified count from the previous year.

"The certified is comprised of all students that live within the Ogden Community School District boundaries," explains Jermeland. "This year's certified count is 621.53 up from 618.12 in 2013. The student enrollment count is taken on October 1st of each school year, and is our budget count for the subsequent

school year.

The district's served count had a sizeable increase from 2013. This year's served count is 699.6 up from 678.5 in 2013. The served count takes into account resident district students and open enrolled in students. There are 127.7 students open enrolled into our district and 45.9 students open enrolled out.

"Through the years our school district has benefited from having more students open enroll in than students open enrolling out."

## Heldt joins fellow war veterans on trip to D.C.



Dayle Heldt of Ogden was among the veterans who traveled to Washington D.C. for the most recent Honor Flight. The flight left Des Moines Thursday, Oct. 16. Cindi Summers, Vice President of Human Resources for Casey's General Store, Inc., assisted the Korean War veteran throughout the day. -Photo provided

## Ogden teachers benefit from Rewards Program

Walmart awarded 20 teachers from Ogden Middle School with \$50 reward cards to help offset classroom expenses. As part of Walmart's Teacher Rewards program, the local educators were honored during an award ceremony Thursday, Oct. 16 at the school.

More than 5,000 U.S. Walmart stores, Distribution Centers and Sam's Club locations are eligible to select one local public school, grades K-8, and provided reward cards to 20 teachers from each selected school. Winning teachers can use the funds to purchase essential items for their classrooms such as paper, folders, binders, pencils, crayons and markers.